

Potential FY 2006 Appropriations Project Request  
**SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK ACQUISITIONS**

1. *Lead Grant Recipient:* San Diego River Conservancy (*or other local project partner*)  
Deborah Jayne, Executive Officer  
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92123  
858-467-2972 (Ph) 858-571-6972 Fax [djayne@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:djayne@waterboards.ca.gov)

2a. *Brief Description of Project:*

Project funding will be used to acquire strategic properties or conservation easements (from willing sellers) deemed essential for the long-term protection of San Diego River wetlands and water quality. Although some desired acquisitions have been identified, many are currently unknown or unavailable. The purpose of this project is to provide the flexibility to take advantage of “windows of opportunity” for key acquisitions as they arise, in addition to the acquisition of known priority parcels currently on the market.

Each acquisition opportunity will be evaluated against two sets of selection criteria: the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (under development by the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and County Water Authority) and the San Diego River Strategic Plan (under development by the San Diego River Conservancy). These criteria will ensure the acquisition of properties with the greatest potential to provide, protect, or restore the natural functioning of the River’s coastal wetland and riparian ecosystems, water quality, municipal drinking water supplies, groundwater recharge, assimilation of pollutants, flood management, native habitat and species diversity, and habitat linkages and wildlife corridors.

*Justification/Status/Outcomes:* The San Diego River Conservancy Act (Act) recognizes the San Diego River as a valuable public asset of both statewide and national significance. The Act also recognizes the River’s need for protection and conservation to preserve its natural, biological, historical, and archeological resources. Having suffered significant insults as a result of intense urban development and hydromodification, the San Diego River is currently designated by the State and federal government as an “impaired waterbody” due to elevated concentrations of several pollutants. The strategic acquisition of sensitive areas along its length will protect the River from further degradation and allow restoration of the natural wetland and riparian ecosystems and associated beneficial functions. The project will be designed to achieve the objectives of the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, the San Diego River Conservancy Strategic Plan, and the City of San Diego’s Multiple Species Conservation Plan / Natural Communities Conservation Plan (MSCP/NCCP). The project is also consistent with City of San Diego’s Draft River Park Master Plan, County’s San Diego River Watershed Plan, City of Santee’s River Park Master Plan, San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan, and numerous other state and local planning documents.

2b *Category: Environmental (or Community Development)*

The project is presented here for consideration under the Environmental category as a conservation effort and important component of the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (currently under development by the City of San Diego, County, and County Water Authority) to protect wetlands, source water quality, and habitat. It should

also be noted however that the project can also be effectively presented as a *Community Development* project essential for the development of the San Diego River Park because of its very strong public access, recreation, and tourism component. The San Diego River Park and Trail will stretch 52 miles from the headwaters in Julian to the Pacific Ocean at Dog Beach and Mission Bay.

3. *Potential Project Partners:*  
City of San Diego, County of San Diego, County Water Authority, San Diego River Park Foundation, City of Santee, Helix Water District, and Wildlife Conservation Board.
4. *Federal Funding Requested:*  
Maximum amount with a 50% match in state funds.